The Lily and the Rose

PARENTAL
Mature Content
Not for Children
ADVISORY

World Renowned Studio Dany&Dany, creators of Idol and Wishing for the Moon, return with a sumptuously illustrated Gothic Tale of forbidden love in revolution era France.

Christophe wants nothing more than to be a simple country priest. When he refuses to sleep with a corrupt Cardinal, he's forced to work in the same manor as the man who almost tempted him away from the cloth when they were younger.

Alain was Christophe's true love, but Christophe chose to join the priesthood rather than be with him.

Alain bitterly remembers Christophe's rejection. He accepts the Cardinal's assignment: destroy Christophe's career with a scandal.

Will his cruel conviction hold once Alain learns how devastated Christophe was to have to deny his feelings for him?

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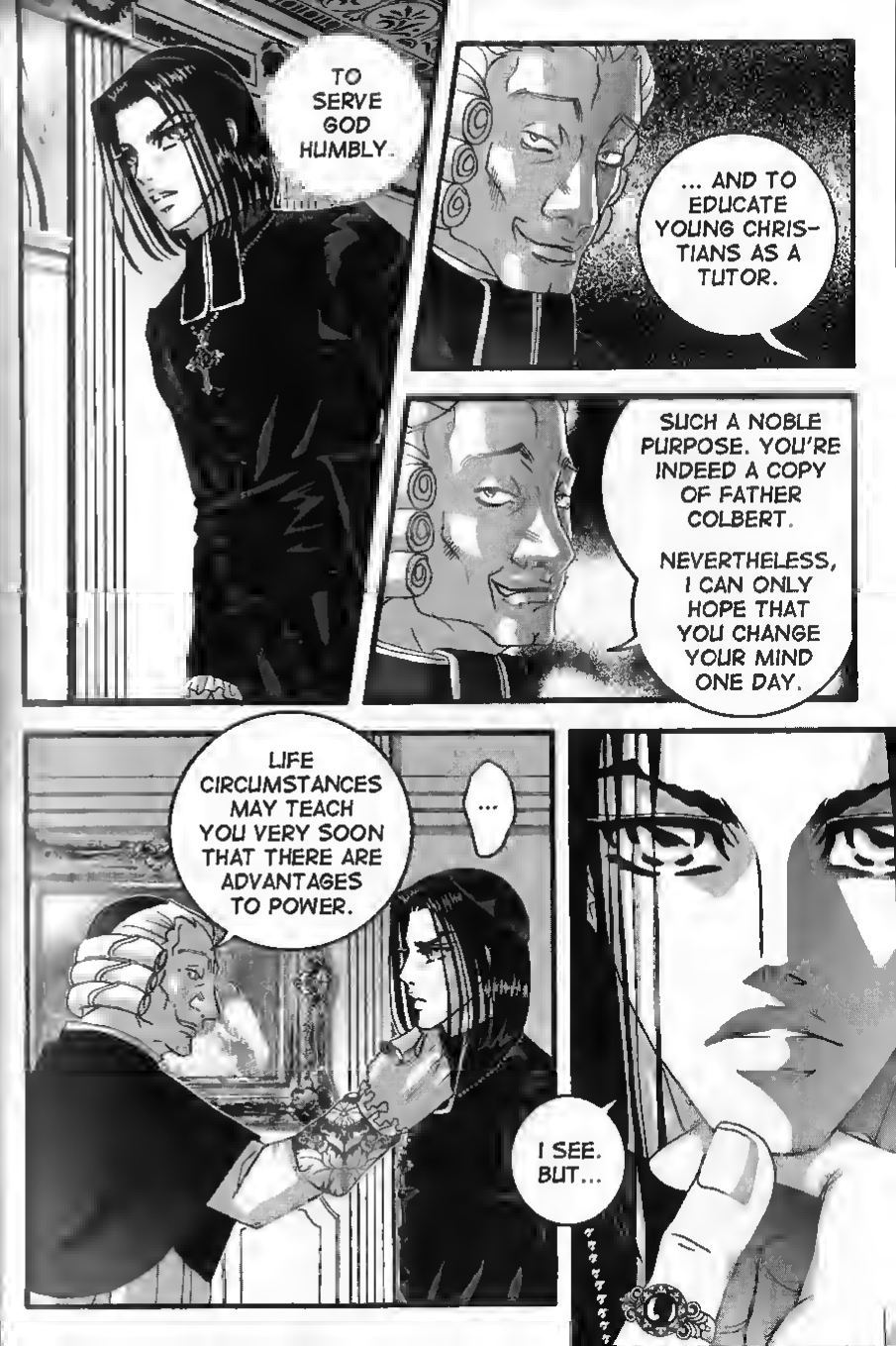
YOU KNOW, ALAN, I'D LIKE TO BECOME A PREIST, AND DEDICATE MY WHOLE LIFE TO GOD, JUST LIKE FATHER COLBERT
BUT THEN I'D HAVE TO CALL YOU FATHER!
NAH... I CAN'T SEE YOU LIKE THAT, CHRISTOPHE !!
WHAT ABOUT YOU? DO YOU KNOW WHAT YOU WANT TO DO WHEN YOU GET OUT OF HERE?
...
JUST ONE THING. FIND THE MAN WHO HAD MY MOTHER KILLED...
AND STICK A KNIFE IN HIS HEART.

The Lily and the Rose

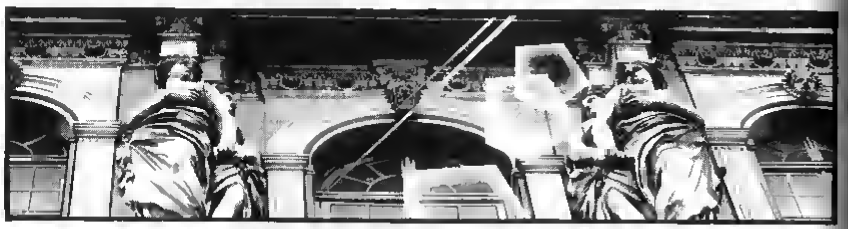
by Dany&Dany

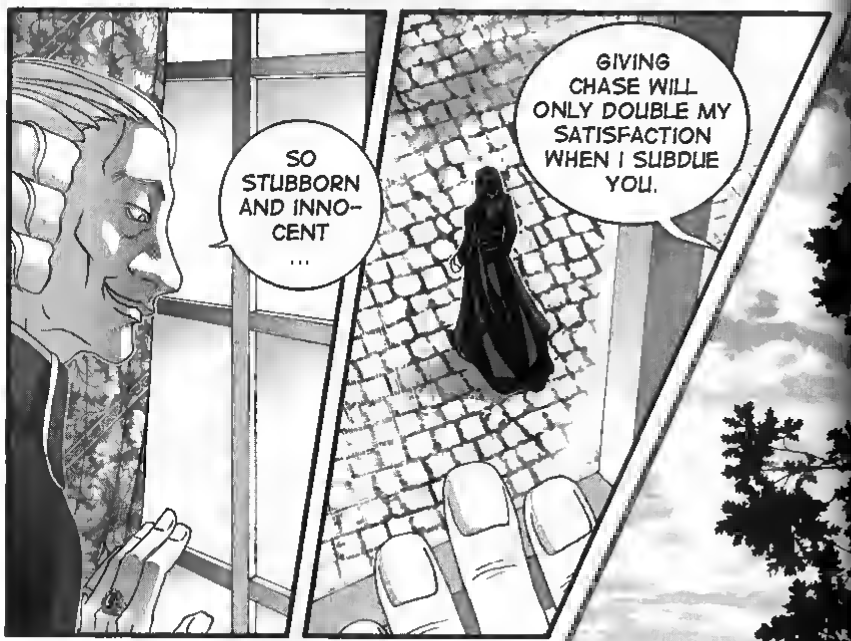
YOUR EMINENCE, I OFFER MY GREATEST RESPECT.
MY DEAR FATHER LAURENT, HOW DELIGHTFUL!
I HEARD FATHER COLBERT LEFT AS A MISSIONARY ...
HOW SAD IT MUST BE TO BE SEPARATED FROM THE MAN WHO REARED YOU WITH SUCH GREAT AFFECTION.
IT'S GOD'S WILL.

NEVER FEAR ...
JUST ACCEPT MY OFFER. AND YOU WON'T EVER LACK MONEY OR POWER.
!
YOU'LL HAVE ME AS YOUR FAITHFUL BENEFACTOR ALWAYS
YOU'RE VERY GENEROUS, YOUR EMINENCE... BUT I HAVE NO AMBITIONS IN THE ECCLESIASTICAL HIERARCHIES...
...
AND I'M SORRY. BUT I HAVE NO NEED OF A BENEFACTOR
!
WELL, DEAR BOY... MAY I ASK YOU WHAT YOU ARE INTERESTED IN, THEN?


TO SERVE GOD HUMBLY.
... AND TO EDUCATE YOUNG CHRISTIANS AS A TUTOR.
SUCH A NOBLE PURPOSE. YOU'RE INDEED A COPY OF FATHER COLBERT.
NEVERTHELESS, I CAN ONLY HOPE THAT YOU CHANGE YOUR MIND ONE DAY.
LIFE CIRCUMSTANCES MAY TEACH YOU VERY SOON THAT THERE ARE ADVANTAGES TO POWER.
...
I SEE. BUT...

NOW I MUST TAKE MY LEAVE. WITH YOUR PERMISSION.
MY OPINION REGARDING POWER IS VERY DIFFERENT FROM YOURS, YOUR EMINENCE.




SO STUBBORN AND INNO-CENT ...
GIVING CHASE WILL ONLY DOUBLE MY SATISFACTION WHEN I SUBDUE YOU.

MADAMES AND MESSIEURS, I FEAR I'VE WON AGAIN!
MARQUIS DE SAINT-DENIS, YOU'RE REALLY UNBEATABLE THIS EVENING!
HA-HA-HA! IT'S JUST A STREAK OF LUCK, MA CHERE. PLEASE, KEEP ON PLAYING. I'LL QUIT FOR TODAY.
YOU'RE FORCING ME TO QUIT THE GAME...

COMTESSE DE SEVIGNY ...
THIS JEWEL IS MORE THAN WORTH THE INFORMATION I'VE ASKED YOU.
...
MY LOVE, YOU GIVE A VERY LITTLE WORTH TO LEARNING THE NAME OF THE PERSON YOU SEEK.
A WHOLE MONTH HAS PASSED, AND STILL YOU DENY ME! I'M THROUGH BEING MADE A FOOL OF! I'M LEAVING THE CHATEAU TOMORROW!!
MPH...
I SHOULD PUNISH YOUR IMPATIENCE BY LETTING YOU LEAVE.
BUT THEN YOU'LL NEVER KNOW WHO THE "FAUN" IS.
!
STILL, I FEEL GENEROUS TODAY.
IN MY HANDS IS THE LETTER OF A FRIEND OF MINE...
A VERY INFLUENTIAL CLERGYMAN WHO ASKED ME TO SETTLE A CERTAIN MATTER FOR HIM.
...
I CHARGE YOU WITH SEEING TO IT. YOU'VE MY WORD AS A NOBLEWOMAN THAT AS SOON AS YOU ACCOMPLISH THIS YOU'LL KNOW WHO THE "FAUN" IS.

WHAT IS IT?
TOMORROW, MY SON'S NEW TUTOR STARTS WORK AT THE CHÂTEAU. HE'S A YOUNG PRIEST...
I NEED YOU TO LURE HIM INTO A COMPROMISING POSITION, SO MY FRIEND CAN BLACKMAIL HIM.

I'M SURE YOU KNOW WHAT KIND OF *COMPROMISING* POSITION I MEAN, NO?
THERE HE IS.
LET'S SEE WHAT KIND OF PRIESTS THE SEMINARY PUTS OUT THESE DAYS...

"DE SUI IPSIUS ET MULTORUM IGNORANTIA" IS A POLEMIC WORK OF THE ITALIAN POET PETRARCH ...
AH, PETRARCH... ALWAYS TORN BETWEEN REASON, FAITH AND SENTIMENT!
?

!
!

MARQUIS! HOW DARE YOU INTERRUPT MY LESSON. HOW LONG HAVE YOU BEEN THERE?
FRUSH
TUMP

...
I SUPPOSE I HAVE TO DO THE INTRODUCTIONS. FATHER, THIS IS MARQUIS MAXIMILLIEN HENRY DE SAINT-DENIS.
HE'S MY MOTHER'S GUEST. MARQUIS, THIS IS FATHER CHRISTOPHE LAURENT, MY NEW TUTOR.
...

MARQUIS MAXIMILLIEN HENRY DE SAINT-DENIS ...
NO... I BEG YOUR PERDON... THE FACT IS YOU LOOK LIKE A FRIEND OF MINE. HIS NAME WAS ALAIN MAURIAC.
ARE YOU ALRIGHT, FATHER? I'M SORRY I SCARED YOU. I'LL BE GOING NOW.
THE RESEMBLAN IS STRIKING
I'M AFRAID I DON'T KNOW WHO THAT IS.
BUT HE MUST HAVE BEEN QUITE SPECIAL TO YOU...
YOU BLUSHED WHEN YOU SAW ME.

IT MUST BE THE HEAT. YOUR CHEEKS ARE FLUSHED TOO, ARE THEY NOT?
...
WOULD YOU MIND LETTING US GET BACK TO OUR LES-SON, MAR-QUIS?
OF COURSE, YOUNG COMTE.
...

I DETEST THAT MAN.
WHY WOULD YOU SAY SUCH A HORRIBLE THING?
THE MARQUIS SLEEPS IN MY FATHER'S BED. I'M OLD ENOUGH TO KNOW WHAT'S GOING ON.
...
IT'S ONLY BEEN ONE SHORT YEAR SINCE MY FATHER DIED, AND ALREADY MY MOTHER HAS A LOVER...
...
CHRISTOPHE, IT'S BEEN SEVEN YEARS...
PLEASE, FATHER ROUIN! YOU'RE HURTING HIM!
THIS IS SCANDALOUS!
I KNEW I'D REGRET LETTING THE SON OF A *PROSTITUTE* INTO MY SCHOOL!

FATHER ROUIN, NO! PLEASE!
DON'T MAKE THINGS WORSE! WHAT WOULD FATHER COLBERT SAY IF HE KNEW? HIS FAVORITE PUPIL COUGHT COMMITTING OBSCENE, UNNATURAL ACTS!
FOR THE LOVE OF GOD, FATHER ROUIN, CALM DOWN.
FATHER COLBERT!
DON'T WORRY, CHRISTOPHE.
IT'S NOT LIKE FATHER ROUIN SAID!
IT WAS JUST A KISS!
YOU'RE FOUL BEYOND REDEMPTION!
ALAIN!
WHAP
PLEASE, FATHER ROUIN, THERE ARE OTHER WAYS! THEY'RE LITTLE MORE THAN CHILDREN... I'M SURE THEY'VE REALIZED THEIR SIN
I COMMITTED NO SIN!
!
YOU HEAR THAT, FATHER COLBERT? I'M NOT GOING TO ALLOW THIS HELL-SPAWN TO BRING CORRUPTION INTO MY SCHOOL. HE LEAVES TOMOR-ROW.
!

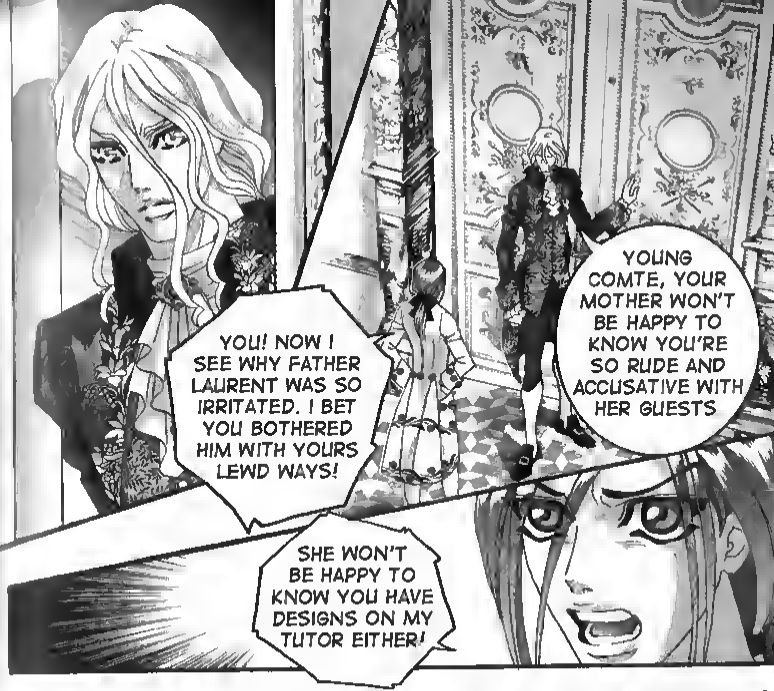
RRRRR
KNOCK! KNOCK!
?
CHRISTOPHE! THEY WANT TO SEPARATE US! DON'T YOU CARE!?
...
OF COURSE I DO! BUT MY LIFE IS HERE. IN A FEW YEARS I'LL ENTER THE SEMINARY AND...
CHRISTOPHE, LET ME IN.
OH MY GOD, ALAIN!
N-NO ...
WHAT ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED BETWEEN US? YOU SAID YOU LOVE ME ...
ALAIN, PLEASE, TRY TO UNDERSTAND! YOU'RE IN MY HEART MORE THAN YOU SHOULD BE...
TAP
!
I'M NOT GOING TO LET THEM CONTROL ME. I'M GOING NOW AND YOU'RE COMING WITH ME.
...
I CAN'T.

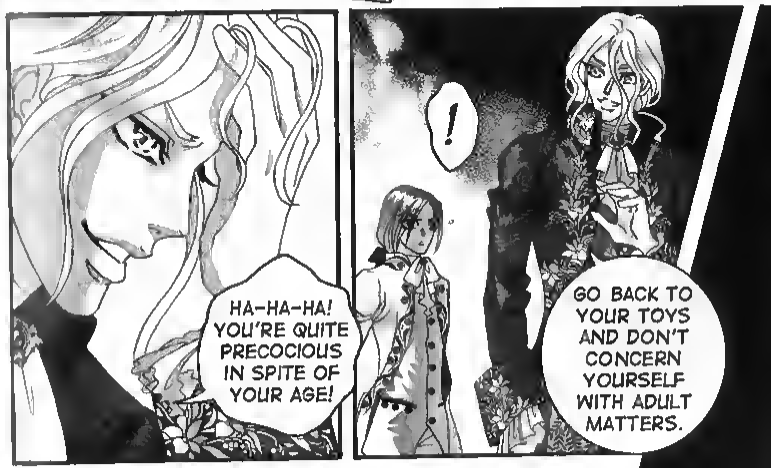
BUT FATHER COLBERT IS RIGHT. WE SINNED. OUR FRIENDSHIP SHOULD HAVE STAYED INNOCENT!
I DON'T BELIEVE THIS... YOU LIED TO ME...
!
YOU'RE A HYPOCRITE! AND A COWARD! I THOUGHT YOU LOVED ME!
THIS IS FINE! I KNOW THE REAL YOU NOW, SO I DON'T HAVE TO AGONIZE OVER GOODBYES!
...
I DO! THAT'S THE PROBLEM! I CAN'T GIVE INTO THIS SIN... I HAVE TO REPENT!
SO DO YOU!
GET AWAY! I DON'T EVEN KNOW YOU ANYMORE!
HIC ..
LOOKS LIKE YOU'RE GOING TO BE THE ONE HURT THIS TIME, MY DEAR CHRISTOPHE.

...
I S VERY WISE. I SHOULD LEARN N IDEAS BEFORE JI.CTING THEM...
I WAS WONDERING IF YOU HAD CARNAL NOWLEDGE BEFORE YOU MADE YOUR CHASTITY VOW.
YOU'RE BEING CRUDE, MARQUIS. IS THERE A POINT TO THIS CONVERSATION OR MAY I LEAVE?
MONTESQUIEU, ROUSSEAU, VOLTAIRE... HMMM, YOU'RE A MAN OF GOD AND YET A MAN OF THE ENLIGHTEMENT...
SUCH A CURIOUS CONTRADICTION.
!
HOWEVER I ASSURE YOU THERE'S NO CONTRADICTION. I'M A PRIEST AND I FEEL I'M ENLIGHTENED AS WELL. THE TWO THINGS ARE PERFECTLY COMPATIBLE.
MARQUIS! I'M BEGINNING TO THINK YOU ENJOY SNEAKING UP ON PEOPLE.
SO YOU DON'T CARE AT ALL ABOUT... EARTHLY NEEDS?
GRAB
LIVING VIRTUOUSLY LIKE PUTTING A BARRIER AROUND YOU. LIKE YOUR OTHES, HM?
THERE MUST BE SOMETHING UNDERNEATH ...
!

HOW DARE YOU! DON'T YOU EVER SPEAK TO ME SO LASCIVIOUSLY!
JUST HOW ARE YOU GOING TO STOP ME?
...

FRU SH
SLAM
TLACK
BASHFUL, LONESOME AND RIGHTEOUS... YOU HAVEN'T CHANGED AT ALL.


YOUNG COMTE, YOUR MOTHER WON'T BE HAPPY TO KNOW YOU'RE SO RUDE AND ACCUSATIVE WITH HER GUESTS
YOU! NOW I SEE WHY FATHER LAURENT WAS SO IRRITATED. I BET YOU BOTHERED HIM WITH YOURS LEWD WAYS!
SHE WON'T BE HAPPY TO KNOW YOU HAVE DESIGNS ON MY TUTOR EITHER!


!
HA-HA-HA! YOU'RE QUITE PRECOCIOUS IN SPITE OF YOUR AGE!
GO BACK TO YOUR TOYS AND DON'T CONCERN YOURSELF WITH ADULT MATTERS.

CHIRP CHIRP
ISN'T THE YOUNG PRIEST CUTE?
CUTE AND CULTURED! I HEAR HE KNOWS SEVERAL ANCIENT LANGUAGES TOO...
HMM, I'D LIKE TO TEACH HIM MY LANGUAGE...
I'M AFRAID YOUR LANGUAGE IS TOO MUCH COMPLICATED FOR HIM, CLAUDETTE.
HAVE YOU DONE YOUR HOMEWORK?
PERFECTLY, MONSIEUR LE MARQUIS!!
WE'VE NOTICED THAT OUR BEAUTIFUL PRIEST WALKS ACROSS THE GARDENS EVERY EVENING.
HE WALKS TO THE WATERLILY POND, WHERE HE LIKES TO STAY AND READ
TD TD
FRU SH

...
...
SLASH
!
FATHER LAURENT!

M-MARQUIS!
SORRY. I WAS JUST TAKING A SWIM. I HAD NO IDEA YOU WERE THERE.
...
I'LL GO.
FRUSH

GOOD HEAVENS, I DON'T BITE! HAVEN'T YOU SEEN A NAKED MAN BEFORE?
OF COURSE I'M FAMILIAR WITH THE MALE HUMAN ANATOMY, MARQUIS.
FRUSH
I DON'T THINK YOU--
!!
I JUST DON'T LIKE YOUR COMPANY!!
WON'T YOU GIVE ME A CHANCE TO IMPROVE YOUR JUDGEMENT OF ME?
EVEN GOD HIMSELF GRANTS FORGIVENESS.
!
GRAB
!
FRUSH
VERY WELL, WE CAN MEET IN THE CHURCH LATER AND SPEAK IN PRIVATE.
I MIGHT EVEN GRANT YOU A CONFESSION.
HA HA HA! CONFESSION!?

THAT WOULD REQUIRE TRUST...
AND I WAS TAUGHT TO TRUST NO ONE.
...
YOU WANT ME TO CONFESS? FINE. BUT I'LL DECIDE WHERE AND WHEN
ALAIN... IT HAS TO BE YOU...

OH LORD, THE CHALLENGE YOU'VE PRESENTED ME IS MOST DIFFICULT. I THOUGHT I'D CONQUERED MY PAST WEAKNESS...
AND YET THE IDEA OF CONFRONTING ALAIN FILLS ME WITH AN IMMENSE FOREBODING
MY LORD, PLEASE GIVE ME THE STRENGTH TO HELP HIM. HE MUST HAVE DIRE REASONS FOR ASSUMING A FALSE IDENTITY
MY LORD, WHY IS HE STILL CAPABLE OF CAUSING ME SUCH DISTRESS?

ALAIN ...
PANT
PANT
TU-TUM
TU-TUM
PANT
PANT
TU-TUM
MY SENSES ARE OVERWHELMING ME. IT'S SO HOT... I FEEL LIKE I'M BURNING. MAYBE IT'S A WARNING...
TU-TUM
MAYBE WE'RE ON OUR WAY TO HELL...
IF THESE ARE HELL'S FLAMES. THEN I'D GLADLY BURN WITH YOU FOREVER. CHRISTOPHE.
SLAM
SO THIS IS WHERE YOU RAN OFF TO, ALAIN!
HOLY VIRGIN! WHAT ARE YOU DOING!?
!
FATHER COLBERT... IF ONLY YOU WERE HERE, YOU'D GIVE ME YOUR ADVICE AS ALWAYS.
SNEAK

THESE SECRET PASSAGES ARE SO HANDY, DON'T YOU AGREE, FATHER LAURENT?
ALAIN!
TU-TUM
THE END... I DON'T SEE WHY YOU CARE SO MUCH ABOUT "THE END"
...
AN END CAN ALSO BE A NEW BEGINNING. THAT'S EXACTLY WHAT HAPPENED TO ME.
YOU'VE NEVER FORGIVEN ME, HAVE YOU?
GUESS THE MOLES ON MY SHOULDER GAVE ME AWAY...
SUCH A PITY... THEY DEPRIVED ME OF THE CHANCE TO CONFESS, CHRISTOPHE.
ALAIN, IF SOMEONE FINDS YOU HERE IT COULD BE THE END FOR ME.
I THOUGHT THIS WAS MY CONFESSION, NOT YOURS.
STOP THE CONFESSION CHARADE, PLEASE! YOU'RE JUST MAKING THINGS DIFFICULT!
I ALWAYS DREAMED I'D MEET YOU AGAIN, ALAIN... BUT I NEVER THOUGHT IT WOULD BE LIKE THIS...

REALLY? AND HOW DID YOU THINK IT WOULD BE, CHRISTOPHE?
...
PLEASE, WON'T YOU TELL ME WHY YOU'RE POSING AS THE MARQUIS DE SAINT-DENIS?
ARE YOU IN DANGER? MAYBE I CAN HELP YOU...
HMPH ...
SO YOU'LL HELP ME KILL THE MAN WHO ORDERED MY MOTHER'S DEATH?
MY GOD, ALAIN! YOU'RE STILL SEEKING REVENGE?
REVENGE... IS THE ONLY THING THAT'S KEPT ME GOING.
MY OBSESSION FOR FINDING THAT MAN WAS THE ONLY THING THAT DROVE ME WHEN I DIDN'T HAVE A ROOF OVER MY HEAD, WHEN I DIDN'T EVEN HAVE A CRUMB OF BREAD.
MY ONLY CLUE WAS HIS NICKNAME ...
THE "FAUN".
...
THAT LED ME TO THE COUNTESS AFTER YEARS OF SEARCHING. I KNOW HE'S PART OF HER ENTOURAGE IN SOME WAY

NO, ALAIN! THIS IS A GRAVE MISTAKE! PLEASE, BE REASONABLE... DO YOU WANT TO END UP ON THE BLOCK?
DON'T PRETEND YOU CARE ABOUT ME!
YOU DIDN'T GIVE A DAMN SEVEN YEARS AGO! WHAT THE HELL HAS CHANGED NOW?
!
YOU'RE RIGHT... NOTHING'S CHANGED. EACH OF US HAS HIS OWN PATH, AND CAN NEVER COMPREHEND THE PATH OF THE OTHER.
SO YOU CAN NEVER UNDERSTAND HOW PAINFUL A SACRIFICE IT WAS FOR ME TO RENOUNCE YOU.
YOU CAN NEVER UNDERSTAND THAT, DESPITE OF MY CHOSEN PATH, MY LOVE FOR YOU HAS NEVER WANED...

...
PLEASE, ALAIN, LOOK AT ME...
WISH
!
TU-TUM TU-TUM
NNN..
TU-TUM TU-TUM

NO! WHAT ARE YOU DOING? ARE YOU INSANE!?
PUSH
!
YEAH, I MUST BE...
TU-TUM
TU-TUM
NO!?
N-NO... STOP...
TU-TUM
TU-TUM

PSSH... DON'T DENY IT.
TU-TUM
TU-TUM
A-ALAIN, PLEASE...
MMH...
PUSH
TU-TUM
TU-TUM
SEE? YOUR BODY CAN'T LIE...
YOU LIKE IT. SAY YOU DO...
!
GRAB

NO! I CAN'T! I TOLD YOU TO STOP!!
WSH
FRU SH
YOU'D BETTER STOP FUSSING OR SOMEONE IS GOING TO HEAR YOU...
FLD
... AND THEN IT WILL REALLY BE OVER FOR YOU ...
WP
WP
!
... AND FOR ME TOO.
HANF
HANF
ALAIN... UHNF... DON'T MAKE ME ...
PANT PANT
TU-TUM TU-TUM
PANT PANT
TU-TUM TU-TUM
NNNHH...
AAAHH ...

RUSH
!

WHY DO YOU WISH TO HUMILIATE ME...? YOU'RE VILE...
LOOK AT YOU! THIS IS A PATHETIC SHAM! STOP LYING TO YOURSELF, DAMN IT!
...
GET OUT OF MY ROOM NOW.

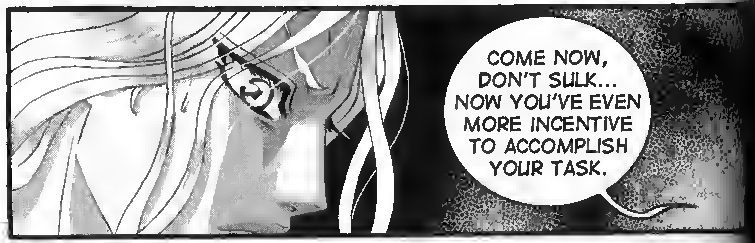
DON'T WORRY, I'M NOT GOING TO STAY IN THE CHATEAU MUCH LONGER.
I'M GOING TO VANISH AS SOON AS I KILL THAT BLOODY BASTARD AND ONCE AGAIN YOU'LL BE FREE TO PRETEND NOTHING'S HAPPENED BETWEEN US ...
RUSH
...

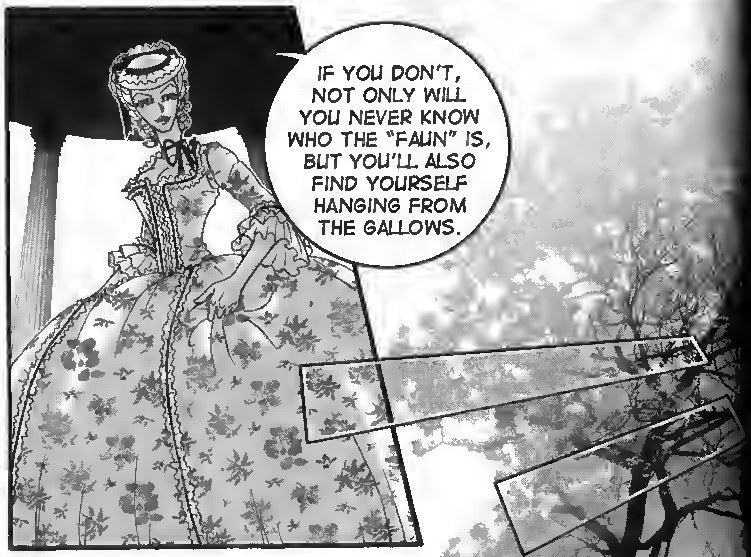
...
WHY CAN'T I MANAGE TO HATE HIM?

CHIRP
CHIRP
OH, MARQUIS... IT'S ABOUT TIME YOU CAME.
PLEASE FORGIVE MY DELAY, COMTESSE. I HAD A HELLISH NIGHT.
EXTRAORDINARY... FATHER LAURENT SEEMS TO HAVE HAD A ROUGH NIGHT AS WELL. HE LOCKED HIMSELF IN HIS ROOM CLAIMING TO BE ILL.
...
JEAN-LOUIS, THERE WILL BE NO LESSONS TODAY. YOU MAY GO PLAY IF YOU WISH.
YES, THANK YOU, MAMAN.
SO, MY DEAR MARQUIS DE SAINT-DENIS... THE FAVOR I ASKED. ARE YOU MAKING ANY PROGRESS?
I FEAR NOT, MA CHÈRE

CAN'T I SERVE YOU SOME OTHER WAY?
IT'S IMPOSSIBLE TO TEMPT THAT MAN.
WELL, HOW ABOUT YOU KILL HIM, THEN?
KILL HIM!?
OH, I WASN'T SERIOUS. I JUST WANTED TO SEE YOUR REACTION. VERY INTERESTING, I MUST SAY.
YOU KNOW VERY WELL THERE'S A MAN I WANT TO KILL, COMTESSE. BUT THAT DOESN'T MEAN I'LL KILL ANYONE IN COLD BLOOD.
NO MATTER. THE FAVOR I ASKED IS NOT NEGOTIABLE, MARQUIS.
OR WOULD YOU PREFER I CALL YOU ALAIN MAURIAC...?
!

HA HA HA!! YOU REALLY THOUGHT YOU COULD FOOL ME FOREVER?
...


COME NOW, DON'T SULK... NOW YOU'VE EVEN MORE INCENTIVE TO ACCOMPLISH YOUR TASK.


IF YOU DON'T, NOT ONLY WILL YOU NEVER KNOW WHO THE "FAUN" IS, BUT YOU'LL ALSO FIND YOURSELF HANGING FROM THE GALLOWS.

HWOOO
MY LORD, WHAT CAN I DO TO ERASE MY SIN?

THOUGHTS OF WHAT HE DID TO ME...
I FEEL SO WRETCHED... MY WILL WAS WEAK...
AND I STILL HAVEN'T THE POWER TO AVOID THOUGHTS OF HIM..
I FEEL FILTHY ...

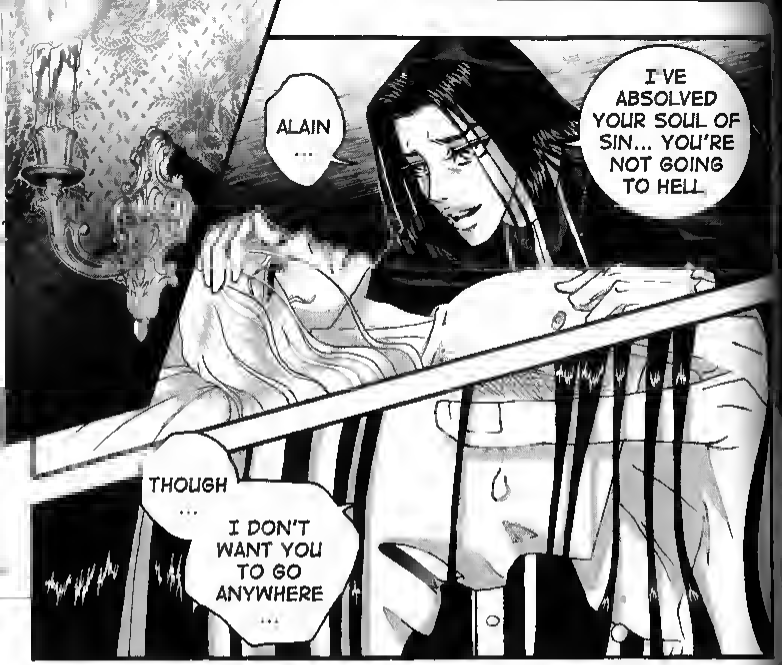
...
RUSTLE
MARQUIS! I SEARCHED THE WHOLE CHÂTEAU FOR YOU!
?
YOUNG COMTE... SORRY, I NEEDED TO THINK SO I WANDERED ACROSS THE GARDENS. WHAT IS IT YOU WANT?
WELL... I'M KEEN TO HAVE YOUR FORGIVENESS FOR BEING SO RUDE TO YOU BEFORE.
HA HA HA!
GOOD HEAVENS! THE APOCALYPSE IS COMING! NOW NOW, THERE'S NO NEED TO APOLOGIZE. YOU'VE A RIGHT TO YOUR OPINIONS, HAVEN'T YOU?
...
FINE. SO, WHY DON'T WE START AGAIN FROM THE BEGINNING?
CHRISTOPHE... ALL I CAN DO NOW IS GET AWAY FROM THE CHÂTEAU.
BUT IF I GO, I'LL NEVER HAVE THE CHANCE TO AVENGE MY MOTHER'S DEATH.
MY LIFE WOULD BE AN UTTER WASTE. AND THEN SURELY THE COUNTESS WOULD EXPOSE ME.
I'D HAVE TO SPEND THE REST OF MY LIFE RUNNING.
BRUSH
I COULD BETRAY YOU... THAT WOULD MAKE THINGS SO MUCH EASIER. BUT...

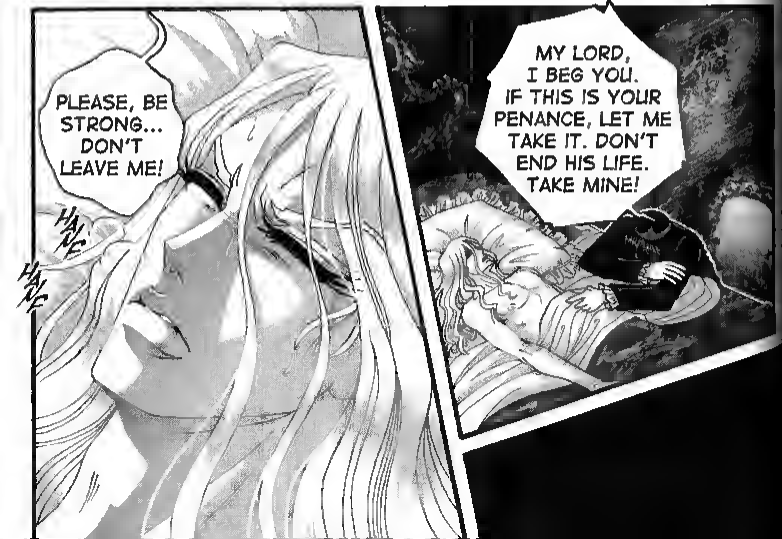
HERE, PLEASE, HELP YOURSELF. I STOLE THEM FROM THE KITCHEN.
?
THEY'RE YOUR FAVORITE, RIGHT?
WHAT A PLEASANT SURPRISE... I'D SAY THAT'S A WONDERFUL WAY TO START AGAIN. THANK YOU VERY MUCH.
W-WHAT...?
TUMP
UMPH!
YOU PICKED THE POISONED ONE OUT OF THE THREE.
IT MUST BE PROVIDENCE DON'T YOU THINK?
HANF
HANF
I'D LOVE TO STAY HERE AND WATCH YOU DIE, BUT MAMAN INSISTED I BE ON TIME FOR DINNER
HANF
HANF
UHGHH ...
!
UGH

CRAK
RR
LE
SSSH
SSSH
?
GWK
GWK
!
MY GOD, ALAIN!!
ALAIN! ALAIN! SPEAK TO ME!
GRAB
RUSH
ALAIN... GOD, PLEASE, NO...
N-NO ...
SSSH
HELP! CALL FOR A DOCTOR!!

CAW
CAW
FROM THE SYMPTOMS I'D SAY HE SWALLOWED SOME BELLADONNA BERRIES.
I TRIED MY BEST. BUT THE POISON'S TAKEN ITS TOLL.
FATHER, I THINK YOU SHOULD PROCEED WITH THE EXTREME UNCTION.
!!
PANT
PANT

I DO HOPE IT WASN'T SUICIDE...
!
PANT
PANT
PANT
PLEASE. I MUST ASK YOU TO LEAVE THE ROOM. I WILL BEGIN THE SACRAMENT AT ONCE.
CREAK
CREAK


ALAIN ...
I'VE ABSOLVED YOUR SOUL OF SIN... YOU'RE NOT GOING TO HELL.
THOUGH ...
I DON'T WANT YOU TO GO ANYWHERE ...


PLEASE, BE STRONG... DON'T LEAVE ME!
HANG
HANG
MY LORD, I BEG YOU. IF THIS IS YOUR PENANCE, LET ME TAKE IT. DON'T END HIS LIFE. TAKE MINE!

WOULDN'T YOU BE BETTER OFF WITH HIM GONE?
?

!
TELL ME... WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS SHOULD HE RECOVER?
FRUSH

WHO ARE YOU, DEVIL? VADE RETRO!
I WON'T GO AWAY... I'M YOU AND YOU'RE ME.
...
YOU CAN'T GET RID OF ME, OR PRETEND I DON'T EXIST.
FLD
BE SILENT !!
WH
OF COURSE... YOU CAN SILENCE ME A WHILE LONGER... IT WON'T CHANGE ANYTHING...
YOU DO LOVE THIS MAN, DEAR PRIEST. YOU'VE LOVED HIM FOR YEARS.
EVERY PAINTED ANGEL REMINDS YOU OF HIM.
HIS BEAUTY DRAGGED YOUR SOUL FAR FROM HEAVEN'S GATES...
... AND DEVERTED YOUR PASSION FROM THE CREATOR TO THE CREATURE.
ANGEL OR DEMON? IT DOESN'T MATTER... LOSE YOURSELF IN HIS INFERNAL BED
...
!!

NO!
FRUSH
CHIRP
CHIRP
IT WAS JUST A DREAM... I NODDED OFF. I HAVEN'T SLEPT FOR TWO NIGHTS ...
!

...
ALAIN!
THANK GOD! HOW DO YOU FEEL?
YOU'RE HERE... I THOUGHT YOU DESPISED ME...
I MUST TELL YOU SOMETHING IMPORTANT!
COME CLOSER... I MAY NOT SURVIVE AND YOU MUST HEAR ME NOW...
GRAB

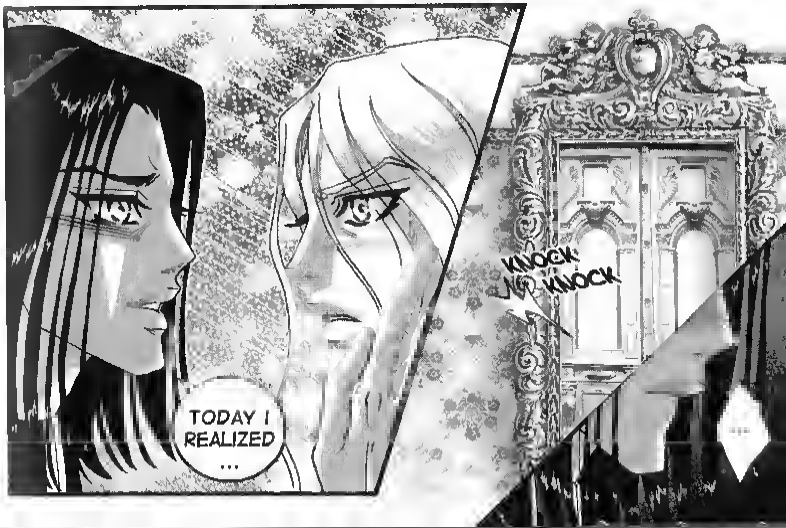
SSHH... YOU'LL SURVIVE.
YOUR FEVER'S BROKEN. DON'T WORRY IF YOUR HEAD'S STILL CLOUDY IT WILL CLEAR SOON.
I WAS AFRAID I'D LOST YOU.
CHRISTOPHE, PLEASE... LISTEN TO ME...

GET AWAY FROM THE CHATEAU. THERE'S A POWERFUL MAN OUT TO RUIN YOU.
HE WANTS YOU INVOLVED IN A SCANDAL. SO HE CAN BLACKMAIL YOU. HE'S A CARDINAL. YOU SHOULD
!
A CARDINAL? I KNOW WHO YOU MEAN. BUT I'M NOT GOING TO RUN.
AND I WON'T LEAVE YOUR SIDE UNTIL YOU'RE RECOVERED.
!
YOU'RE DAMNED STUBBORN! WHY MUST YOU ALWAYS DO THE OPPOSITE OF WHAT I WISH?

GET OUT OF HERE, PLEASE... AND FOR GOD'S SAKE, KEEP AWAY FROM ME.
WHY?
FRU SH
THE COUNTESS HAS CONTROL OVER ME... SHE WANTS ME TO RUIN YOUR REPUTATION FOR THE CARDINAL.
!
I SEE... SO LAST NIGHT, YOU...

NO, I SWEAR! SHE DOESN'T KNOW ANYTHING!! I COULD NEVER BETRAY YOU ...
I... I'M SO ASHAMED OF WHAT I DID TO YOU. PLEASE FORGIVE ME IF YOU CAN.

IT'S NOT YOU I'M ANGRY WITH, ALAIN. IT'S ME.
TODAY I REALIZED MANY THINGS...
...


TODAY I REALIZED ...
KNOCK KNOCK

MARQUIS, DARLING! YOU'RE BETTER!!
...
IT'S A MIRACLE! FATHER LAURENT, THEY COULD MAKE YOU A SAINT, I SWEAR!
COMTESSE DE SEVIGNY... I WAS ABOUT TO INFORM YOU OF THE GOOD NEWS...
WE HAVE TO CELEBRATE. AS SOON AS THE MARQUIS IS ABLE, I'LL HAVE THE MOST LAVISH PARTY OF THE SUMMER!

FOR HEAVEN'S SAKE... WHAT A FACE! DON'T YOU THINK YOU'RE EXAGGERATING? YOU SEEM MORE LIKE A DEATH ROW INMATE THAN A MIRACULOUSLY HEALED PERSON ...

I'M CLOSER TO A DEAD MAN WALKING. I REALLY DON'T KNOW OF WHOM I HAVE TO BEWARE MORE. YOU OR YOUR SON.
I'LL SOLVE THAT FOR YOU. I'M FAR MORE DANGEROUS, BELIEVE ME.
I'VE BEEN FAR TOO PATIENT WITH YOU, ALAIN. YOU WILL CARRY OUT YOUR DUTY TONIGHT.
I WANT YOU TO GO TO THE GARDENS TONIGHT, TO DIANA'S TEMPLE, TOGETHER WITH FATHER LAURENT.
PUT HIM IN A COMPROMISING POSITION FOR ME TO WITNESS. I'LL SEE TO THE REST.
OH YOUR EMINENCE, WHAT AN HONOR!
I WAS AFRAID YOU WOULDN'T MAKE IT!
COMTESSE DE SEVIGNY, ENCHANTÉ. I WOULDN'T MISS A PARTY OF YOURS FOR ANYTHING IN THE WORLD.
YOUR EMINENCE, I'M PLEASED TO INTRODUCE THE MARQUIS DE SAINT-DENY, THE YOUNG NOBLEMAN I'VE TALKED TO YOU ABOUT SO MUCH.
OH, SUCH A BEAUTIFUL YOUTH AMONG YOUR GUESTS, COMTESSE!
...
WON'T YOU TELL ME WHY IT IS THAT FATHER LAURENT ISN'T HERE..?

FATHER LAURENT IS NOT THE TYPE OF CLERIC WHO CARES FOR EXCESS AND INDULGENCE.
I'M EAGER TO SEE HIM AGAIN...
OF COURSE. THAT'S PRECISELY WHY HE'S SO INTERESTING. DON'T YOU AGREE?
HA HA HA!
!

SLEEK
?
ALAIN. AT LAST!
I'VE BEEN TRYING TO CATCH YOU SO WE COULD TALK PRIVATELY. I'VE THOUGHT EVERYTHING THROUGH!
THE COUNTESS NEVER LETS YOU OUT OF HER SIGHT LATELY SO...
I WAS WRITING YOU A LETTER JUST NOW
!

GRAB
DON'T CREATE EVIDENCE LIKE THIS! LEAST OF ALL WRITTEN !!
?
RIP
RIP
RIP
YOU WON'T BE ABLE TO TAKE MUCH WITH YOU.
PUSH
HURRY!!
GRAB
YOU'D BETTER LEAVE YOUR BOOKS BEHIND... I'VE PREPARED A HORSE FOR YOU IN THE STABLES!
YOU HAVE TO GET OUT OF THE CHÂTEAU! NOW!!
THAT MAN, THE CARDINAL DUCOS, HE'S HERE AND I'M CERTAIN HE'S NOT LEAVING WITHOUT YOU!!
ALAIN, STOP IT! I'VE ALREADY TOLD YOU, I WON'T RUN!
!
I'M NOT A COWARD... AND I'M IN THE RIGHT! GOD WILL HELP ME SOLVE THIS!
GOD... GOD!? THAT'S INSANE!
ALRIGHT THEN. . YOU LEAVE ME NO OTHER CHOICE! I'LL GO! I'M NOT GOING TO STAY HERE, POWERLESS WITNESSING YOUR RUIN.
!
WHAT?

NO, PLEASE ...
DON'T YOU UNDERSTAND? THE ONLY RUIN FOR ME WOULD BE LOSING YOU AGAIN.
YOU'RE SO CONTRADICTORY ...
I'D ASK YOU TO LEAVE WITH ME, BUT I ALREADY KNOW YOUR ANSWER.
TU-TUM
I THOUGHT NOTHING COULD EVER STOP ME FROM SEEKING REVENGE AGAINST THE "FAUN"...
BUT IF I FLEE NOW, I'LL HAVE TO GIVE IT UP FOREVER...
IT'S CLEAR YOU'RE MORE IMPORTANT TO ME...

GOODBYE, CHRISTOPHE.
ALAIN!
GRAB
WSH
!
I CAN'T... I CAN'T BEAR NOT TO SEE YOU AGAIN.
I LOVE YOU, ALAIN... GOD FORGIVE ME. I DO.

I LOVE YOU TOO, CHRISTOPHE. I NEVER STOPPED LOVING YOU...
GRAB
PANT
PANT
RUSH
I WANT TO LOOSE MYSELF IN YOU... I WANT ALL OF YOU...
MMH ...
TU-TUM
Y-YES ...
AHH ... AH!
GRAB
RUSH
IF YOU WANT ME TO STOP.. YOU BETTER MAKE ME
NO... PLEASE ...
TU-TUM
TU-TUM
DON'T STOP

HMMM ...
HANF
HANF
AH!
WSH
WSH
AH!
MMH!
HANF
HANF
HANF
HANF
AHH!
AHH!
WSH
WSH
PANT
PANT
PANT
PANT

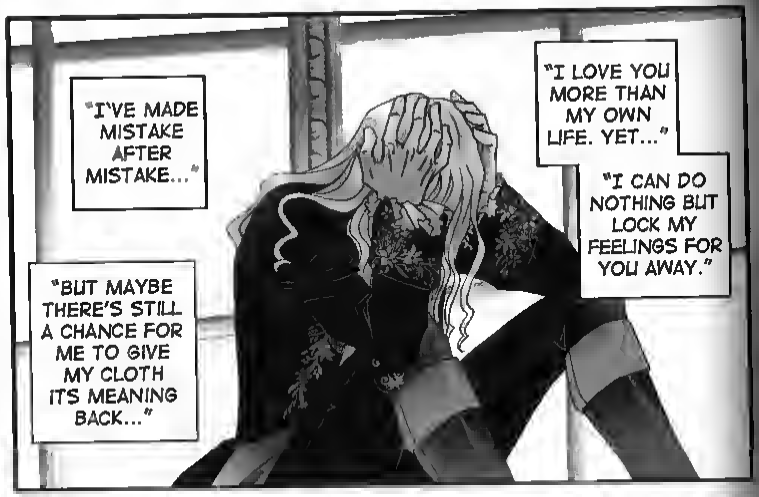
PANT
PANT
I CAN'T DENY MY LOVE FOR YOU... I TRIED. I KNOW IT'S AN AFFRONT TO WHAT'S NATURAL BUT...
HANF
HANF
HANF
THE ONLY AFFRONT AGAINST WHAT'S NATURAL I SEE IS YOUR GOING AGAINST YOUR OWN NATURE. AND YOU DID IT LONG ENOUGH, CHRISTOPHE... STOP LYING TO YOURSELF...
SLAM

WHAT A BEAUTIFUL PICTURE, ALAIN!
I CONGRATULATE YOU FOR SUCH A MASTERPIECE! LUCKILY I KNEW DIANA'S TEMPLE WAS THE LAST PLACE I'D FIND YOU.
!
!
!
GRAB
MY DARLING... YOU'RE TREMBLING. PLEASE, LET ME HELP YOU ..
DON'T YOU DARE TOUCH HIM!

COME NOW MY SON, CEASE YOUR THREATENING GLANCE. I HAVE NO INTENTION OF ACCUSING FATHER LAURENT OF SODOMY.
UNLESS HE FORCES ME TO DO SO... I ONLY WANT TO TAKE CARE OF HIM.
RATTLE
RATTLE
RATTLE
IT'S OVER ...
TWINKLE
YES, IT'S OVER! BUT NOT FOR YOU, CHRISTOPHE!
VOOSH
!
ALAIN, STOP! DON'T DO IT!
IF I WERE YOU, I'D HEED FATHER LAURENT.
CRACK
!
PLEASE, ALAIN, PUT THE DAGGER AWAY!
I COULDN'T BEAR IT IF YOU HUNG FOR ME.
LET ME HANDLE IT.

ALAIN, PLEASE...
!
...
GRAB
NO...
YOUR PAY. THIS NOTE HAS THE REAL NAME OF THE "FAUN".
YOU'RE FREE TO LEAVE THE CHÂTEAU WHENEVER YOU LIKE.
YOUR EMINENCE, GIVE ME TIME TO PACK. AND...
FRU SH
FRU SH
...PLEASE FORGIVE MY FRIEND'S IMPETUOUS BEHAVIOR.
BA TLE
OF COURSE, MON PETIT. I WOULD DO ANYTHING FOR YOU. EXCEPT GIVE YOU UP. OF COURSE.

THANK YOU VERY MUCH, COMTESSE. I'VE ALREADY SEEN TO IT THAT THE DONATION YOU ASKED ME FOR IS ON YOUR WAY.
CHIRP CHIRP
DOING BUSINESS WITH YOU IS ALWAYS A PLEASURE, YOUR EMINENCE.
...
CRUSH
"MY BELOVED ALAIN, I KNOW YOU DON'T UNDERSTAND MY CHOICE..."
"... AND I BEG YOUR FORGIVENESS FOR THE PAIN I MAY HAVE CAUSED YOU."
"FLEEING WOULD HAVE BEEN FRUITLESS. IF DUCOS WANTS TO BLACKMAIL ME, HE'LL FIND A WAY, NO MATTER WHERE I GO."
"I HAVE TO FIGHT HIM IN A DIFFERENT WAY."
"ONCE IN PARIS I'LL GO TO A HIGH PRELATE WHO'LL GIVE ME CONFESSION AND HELP ME RESIST HIM."
RRRR


"I'VE MADE MISTAKE AFTER MISTAKE..."
"I LOVE YOU MORE THAN MY OWN LIFE. YET..."
"I CAN DO NOTHING BUT LOCK MY FEELINGS FOR YOU AWAY."
"BUT MAYBE THERE'S STILL A CHANCE FOR ME TO GIVE MY CLOTH ITS MEANING BACK..."

"WHATEVER HAPPENS, DON'T EVER FORGET I LOVE YOU.."
"I'LL LOVE YOU ALWAYS."
"I WILL PRAY THE LORD, SO YOU MAY START A NEW AND HAPPY LIFE."

CHRISTOPHE ...

FORGIVE ME, ALAIN, FOR LYING ABOUT MY INTENTIONS IN MY LETTER...
I'M NOT THE PRIEST I WANTED TO BE AND I DON'T KNOW WHAT TO DO WITH MY LIFE ANYMORE...
BUT I HAD TO SAY WHATEVER YOU NEEDED TO HEAR TO KEEP YOU FROM GOING UP AGAINST SUCH A DANGEROUS MAN AS DUCOS.

I SWEAR I'LL NEVER SURRENDER TO HIM.
AND WILL MEET YOU AGAIN.

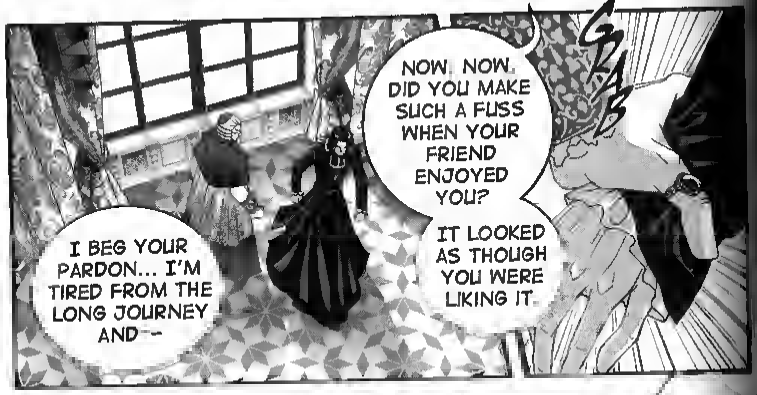
TAP
TAP
TAP
TAP
WHAT AM I LEFT WITH?
ANY OTHER TIME MY LUST FOR REVENGE WOULD SUSTAIN ME...
STAY HIDDEN HERE, AND DON'T COME OUT NO MATTER WHAT, PROMISE?
WHAT ABOUT YOU, MOMMY?
MOMMY WILL BE FINE... DON'T WORRY.
SLAM
ELEONORE MAURIAC... WHERE'S YOUR SON?

HUM... I SOLD HIM. I NEEDED MONEY.
...
YOU'RE A LIAR, BUT IT DOESN'T MATTER.
THAT BRAT COULD NEVER PROVE HE'S THE HEIR OF THE "FAUN".
THERE MUST BE A MISUNDERSTANDING, MONSIEUR! ALL I ASKED HIM FOR WAS SOME MONEY TO GIVE THE CHILD A GOOD EDUCATION!
PLEASE, BELIEVE ME! I DON'T EVEN KNOW THE TRUE IDENTITY OF THE "FAUN"-
SLIT
!
THUD
SO.. YOU'RE THE FAUN.

THERE WASN'T EVEN TIME FOR HER TO SAY A FINAL PRAYER...
AND IT WILL BE THE SAME FOR YOU.
I'M DISGUSTED TO BE YOUR SON!
FAD
FAD
FAD

I THOUGHT YOU WERE MY PATRON, NOT MY JAILER. WHY AM I FORBIDDEN TO GO OUT?
PARIS IS NOT A SAFE PLACE THESE DAYS, ESPECIALLY FOR CLERICS AND NOBLES.
I DON'T WANT TO LOSE YOU AFTER JUST BRINGING YOU UNDER MY WING
FRU SH
!

IN THAT CASE, I'D LIKE TO RETIRE TO MY ROOM TO PRAY.
WE'LL HAVE TIME TO PRAY LATER, DON'T YOU THINK?


I BEG YOUR PARDON... I'M TIRED FROM THE LONG JOURNEY AND--
NOW, NOW. DID YOU MAKE SUCH A FUSS WHEN YOUR FRIEND ENJOYED YOU?
IT LOOKED AS THOUGH YOU WERE LIKING IT.
GRAB

YOU... YOU WON'T EVEN GIVE ME TIME TO BECOME RESIGNED TO MY PLIGHT?
I'VE PAID THROUGH THE NOSE TO HAVE YOU...
WSH

!
FRUSH
I THINK I DESERVE AN APPETIZER AT LEAST, HMM?
DON'T TOUCH ME!
WHAP
...

WACK

OUCH!
THUD
AHH...
I WANTED TO BE GENTLE WITH YOU...
SLIP
...BUT YOU SEEM TO HAVE OTHER TASTES.
RRRIP
!
TU-TUM
TU-TUM
LET ME GO!
DON'T YOU DARE STRUGGLE. I OWN YOU!
I'M ALL YOU HAVE IN THIS WORLD. BY NOW THAT BOYFRIEND OF YOURS IS HEADED FOR THE GALLOWS!
!
YOU'RE LYING!
THE COUNTESS TOLD ME HE WAS AN IMPOSTOR ...
...AND SHE WAS GOING TO EXPOSE HIM.
NNNGHH...

GRAB
VOOSH
AARGH!
SZOK
!
TU-TUM
TU-TUM
URRRGH...
URRGH...
TU-TUM
TU-TUM
...
THUD

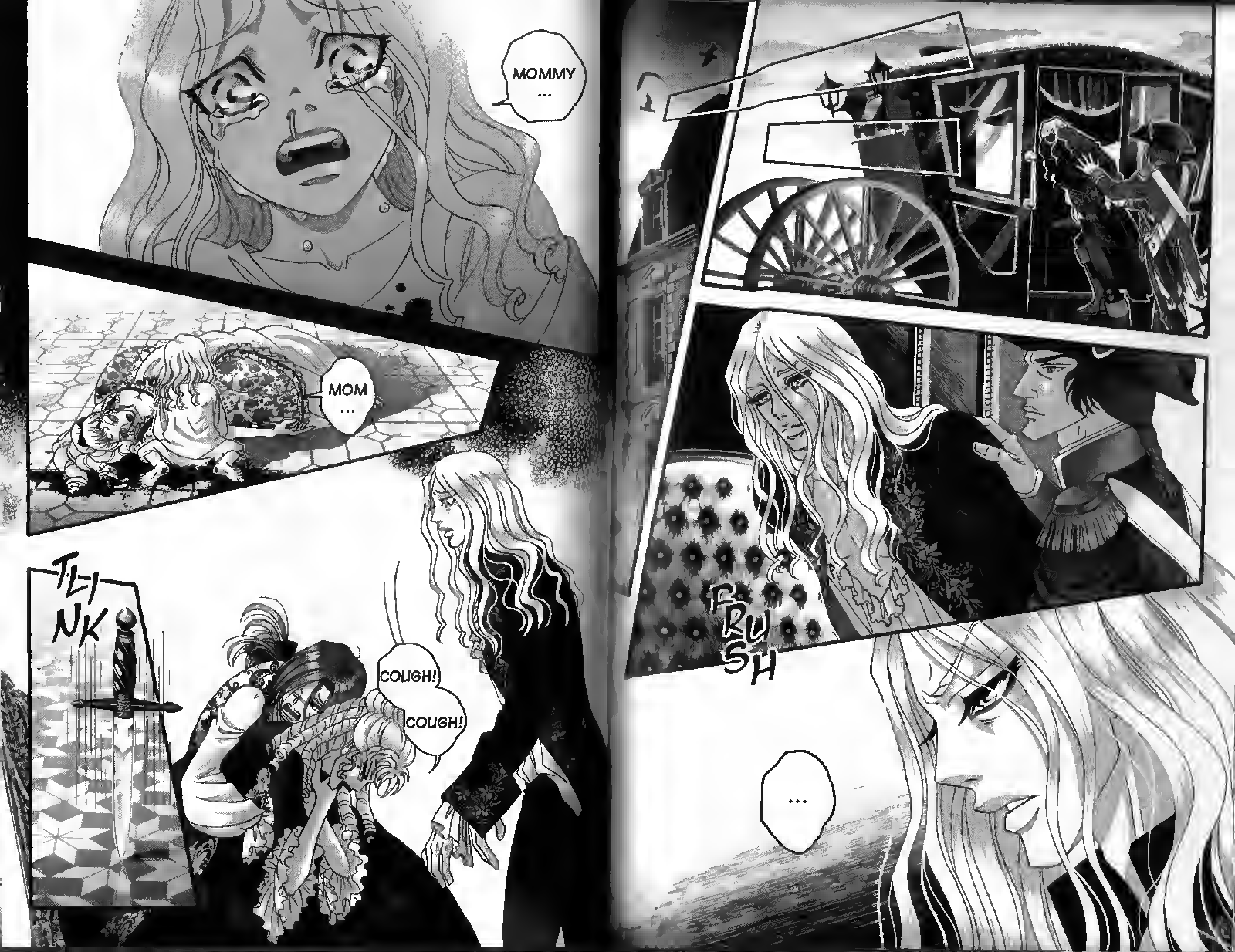
NNGH!
FRUSH
TUMP
GOD... NO...
NO ..
NO ...
WHAT HAVE I DONE...? I KILLED A MAN...
RATTLE
IT'S OVER ...
THIS TIME, IT'S TRULY OVER..

!
ALAIN!

CRACK
CRACK
THERE ISN'T TIME TO WALLOW IN SELF-PITY.
ALAIN MUST KNOW HE'S IN DANGER!

?
MY SEDUCER, MY IMPOSTOR ...
COMTESSE, I HOPED TO MEET YOU AGAIN IN HELL.
YOU'VE BEEN SUCH A FOOL TO TAKE ME ON...
LOOK AT YOUR HANDS STAINED WITH BLOOD. BUT NOT THE BLOOD YOU WANTED.

HA HA HA! I MUST THANK YOU FOR HAVING FREED ME FROM THAT BLACKMAILER... HE WAS GETTING MORE INSISTENT EVERYDAY!
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?
YOU'RE SAYING THE MAN I KILLED WASN'T...
RATTLE
OF COURSE HE WASN'T!
ANYWAY, TAKE HEART... YOU'D NEVER BE ABLE TO KILL THE "FAUN" ...
RATTLE
HE'S ALREADY DEAD. ONE YEAR AGO, OF SYPHILIS.
!
JUST LIKE YOUR HUSBAND! HE WAS THE "FAUN"!!
D-DON'T MAKE MATTERS WORSE...
I'VE ALREADY CALLED FOR THE GENDARMES ...
SO IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE IF I KILL YOU TOO, NOW DOES IT?
WSH
YOU CONNIVING WITCH! YOU USED ME TO THE VERY END!
I'VE TOLD THEM YOU'RE AN IMPOSTOR AND A MURDERER!
MAMAN!
N-NO
TU-TUM
TU-TUM


MOMMY ...
MOM ...
TLINK
COUGH!
COUGH!
FRUSH
...

CHRISTOPHE, IF ONLY I KNEW YOU WERE SAFE...
... AND THE CHOICE YOU MADE WILL MAKE YOU HAPPY...
... THEN I COULD DIE CONTENT.
I CAN'T FIND ANYWAY TO PROTECT YOU. I NEVER FELT SO POWERLESS.
THUR-RUMP
THUR-RUMP
THUR-RUMP
THUR-RUMP
THUR-RUMP

CRUSH
MY GOD ...
CREAK
?
SIGH!

STOP WEEPING! FINALLY FARMERS ARE GETTING A LITTLE BIT OF JUSTICE AFTER CENTURIES OF OPPRESSION!
YOU SHOULD BE HAPPY FOR IT!
WHAT'S HAPPENED CLAUDETTE?
F--FATHER LAURENT...
GOOD HEAVENS, IT'S REALLY YOU!
AN UPRISING, FATHER... THEY'VE SLAIN EVERYONE...
GRAB
THE COUNTESS, THE YOUNG COUNT, HER GUESTS...
EVERYONE.
!
WHAT ABOUT THE MARQUIS, CLAUDETTE?
OH, THAT WASN'T A TRUE MARQUIS, FATHER, BUT AN IMPOSTOR AND A MURDERER ...
IT SEEMS HE KILLED A GUEST OF THE COUNTESS... HE WAS ARRESTED AND TAKEN AWAY.
I THINK HE'S BEEN LOCKED UP IN THE BASTILLE. HE'LL BE EXECUTED FOR SURE.
!

I HAVE TO GO...
YOU HAD BETTER NOT. PARIS IS IN TURMOIL RIGHT NOW.
THEY'RE CHECKING EVERYONE WHO GOES IN OR OUT.
THEY'VE ALREADY HUNG SOME INNOCENTS.
I HAVE TO GO TO HIM.
FRUSH
CAW
CAW
HWOOO
...
TWENTY-TWO YEARS OLD... AND IN THREE DAYS I'LL BE FOOD FOR WORMS.
LAD, COMMIT YOUR SOUL TO GOD AND CONFESS YOUR SINS.

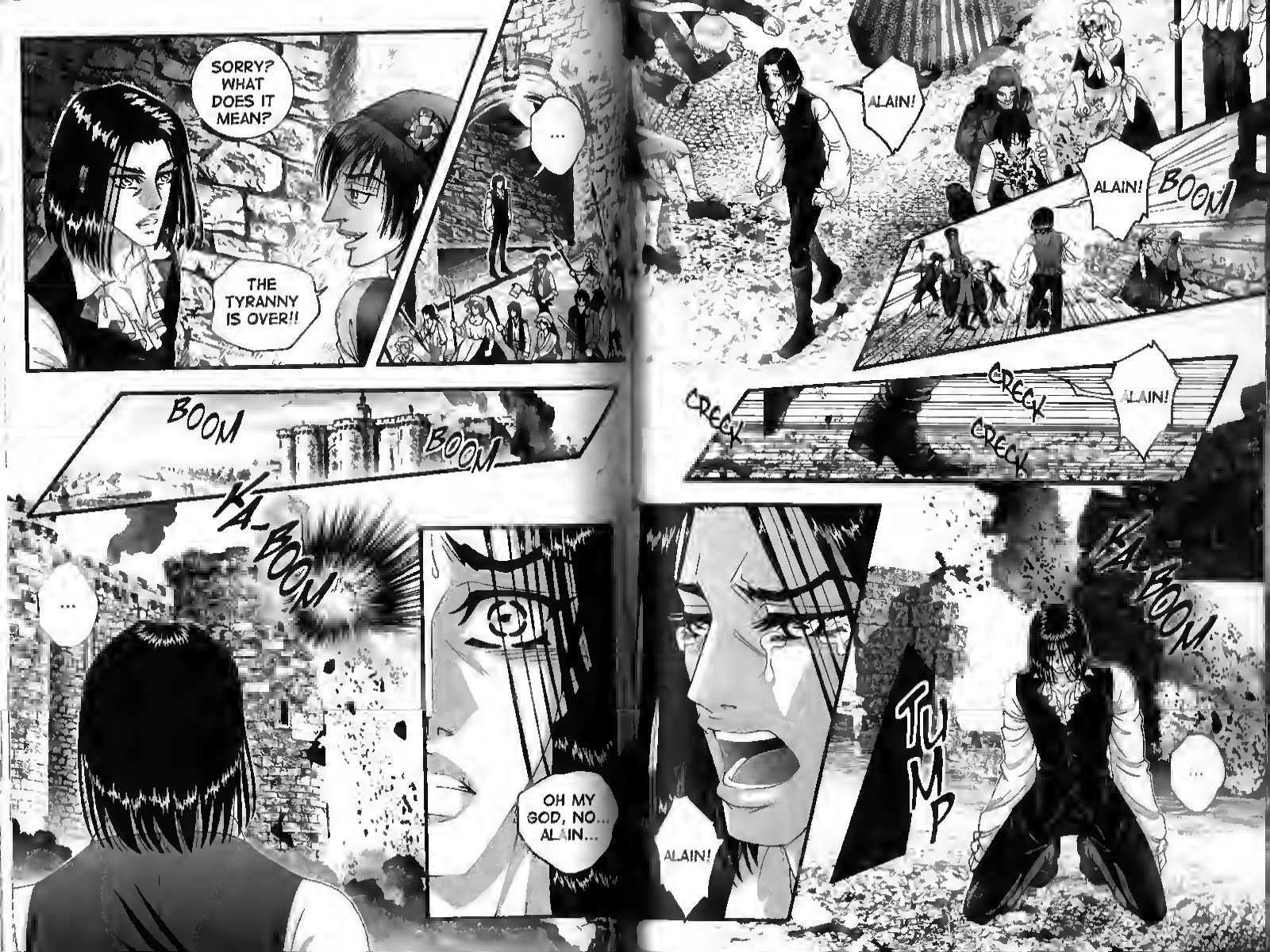
BLINK
NSH
CHRISTOPHE!
OUR LORD TOO WAS CONDEMNED TO DEATH. HE SACRIFICED HIS LIFE FOR OUR SALVATION.
!
HMPH ...
QUITE THE CONTRARY, HE KNOWS ABSOLUTELY NOTHING.
...
IF MY DEATH COULD SAVE THE LIFE OF MY BELOVED, DYING WOULD BE A PLEASURE!
HE KNOWS WELL HOW YOU FEEL
AND THEN I'D DIE WITHOUT KNOWING FOR CERTAIN WHAT HAPPENS AFTER DEATH, AWARE THAT I COULD EVEN CEASE TO EXIST IN THE END!
YOU'RE INSANE! Y-YOU DEVIL!!
THERE CAN'T BE A SACRIFICE WITHOUT A LOSS! WHAT KIND OF A SACRIFICE WOULD IT BE IF I WERE AN IMMORTAL GOD??
I CAN'T SAVE CHRISTOPHE IF I DIE HERE...
THUD
I HAVE TO SEE HIM AGAIN... I HAVE TO RESCUE HIM!

LOWER THE BRIDGES!
WE WANT THE BASTILLE!
?
WHAT'S THAT COMMOTION OUTSIDE?
A BIG CROWD'S GATHERED. BUT TROOPS ARE ON THEIR WAY TO HELP US.
...
YOUR NAME IS ANTOINE, ISN'T IT?
WE'RE SAFE HERE. WE CAN USE THE CANNONS IF WE HAVE TO.
IT MAKES NO DIFFERENCE TO ME. TOMORROW I'LL BE A DEAD MAN ALL THE SAME.
!
...
YOU KNOW, I'VE NOTICED THE WAY YOU'VE BEEN WATCHING ME, SINCE THE VERY FIRST DAY ...

GULP
I DON'T KNOW WHAT YOU'RE TALKING ABOUT.
IT'S A PITY... YOU'RE NOT BAD-LOOKING AT ALL. AND I COULD GO FOR A GOOD FUCK BEFORE I DIE.
YOU WANT ME, I CAN TELL... COME ON, NOBODY WILL NOTICE...
THEY'VE GOT MORE IMPORTANT THINGS TO THINK ABOUT, DON'T THEY?
TU-TUM
TU-TUM
I'M NOT OPENING THE DOOR TO YOUR CELL.
FRUSH
I DON'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT THE DOOR. WE'LL DO IT THROUGH THE BARS...
IT'LL BE MORE EXCITING.
UHM ...

THUNG
UGH!
TLACK
FLD

TO THE BASTILLE!
TO THE BASTILLE!
?
WHAT'S HAPPENING?
THE BASTILLE WAS OVERTAKEN!


SORRY? WHAT DOES IT MEAN?
THE TYRANNY IS OVER!!
...
ALAIN!
ALAIN!
BOOM
CRECK
CRECK
CRECK
ALAIN!
BOOM
BOOM
KA-BOOM
...
OH MY GOD, NO... ALAIN...
ALAIN!
TUMP
KA-BOOM
...

SIGH!
!
SKREEK
KA-BOOM
!
TU-TUM
TU-TUM
...
TAP
FRU
SH
GRAB

NEVER LEAVE ME AGAIN...
NEVER AGAIN ...
CREEK
...
WOOSH

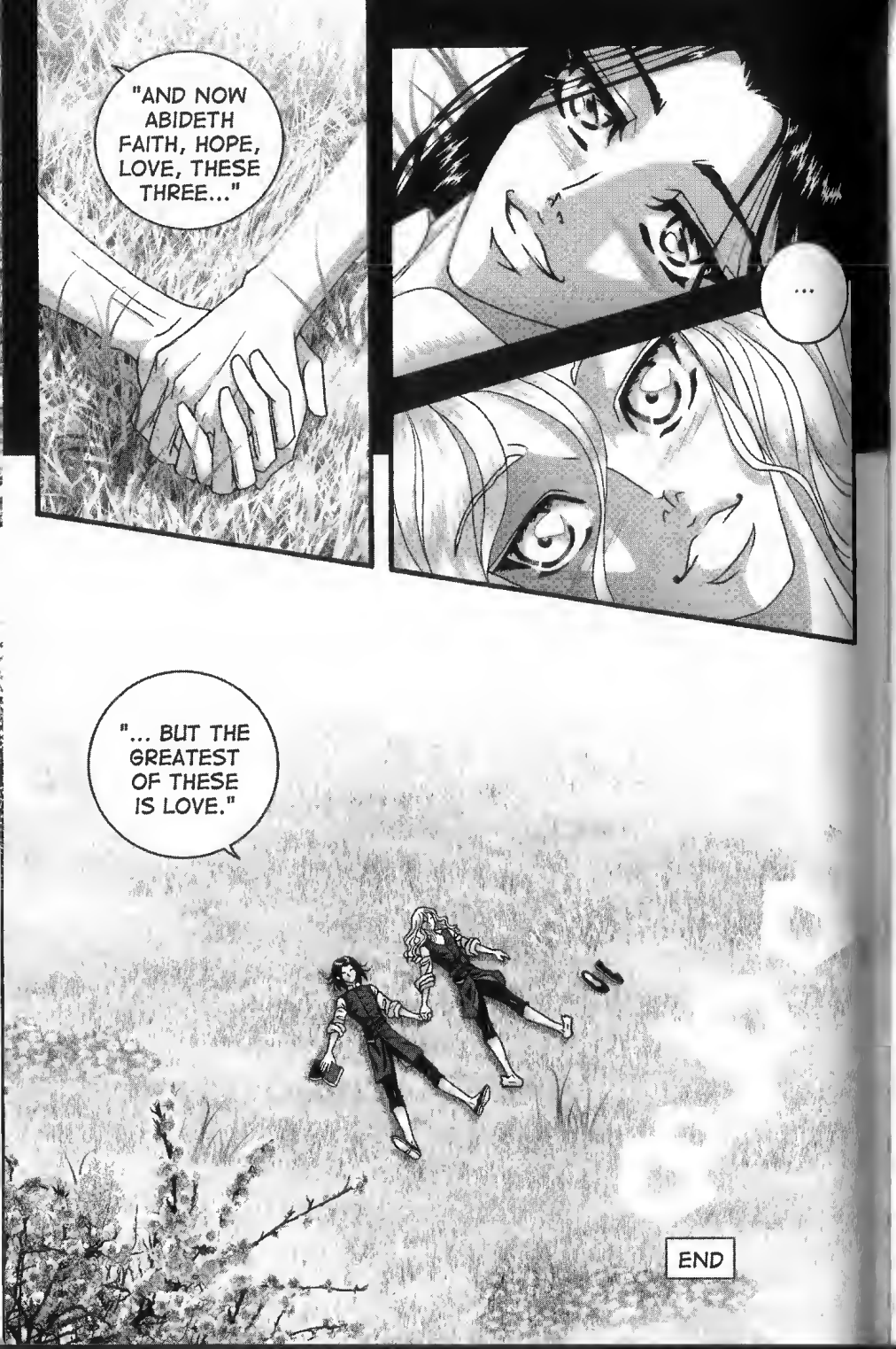
WHO WOULD EVER BELIEVE IT? WE HAVE TO BE MEANT FOR EACH OTHER TO HAVE GOTTEN THROUGH ALL THIS SAFELY. MAYBE GOD'S NOT SO AVERSE TO OUR ROMANCE AFTER ALL, HM?
HE BROUGHT US TOGETHER TWICE, AGAINST ALL ODDS.
SHHH... DON'T JOKE ABOUT THINGS LIKE THIS!
FRUSH
HA HA HA!
YOU KNOW I DON'T LIKE IT.
HURRY UP AND GET DRESSED. I WANT TO BE ON THE DECK TO SEE THE COASTS OF THE NEW WORLD THE MOMENT THEY COME INTO VIEW.
YOU'RE NOT GOING ANYWHERE BEFORE YOU SAY THE PASSWORD .
AGAIN!?
HMPH ...
HOW MANY TIMES DO YOU WANT TO HEAR THAT I LOVE YOU?
I'LL NEVER HEAR IT ENOUGH.

"THOUGH I SPEAK WITH THE TONGUES OF MEN AND OF ANGELS, AND HAVE NOT LOVE..."
"...I AM BECOME AS SOUNDING BRASS, OR A TINKLING CYMBAL..."

"...AND THOUGH I HAVE THE GIFT OF PROPHECY, AND UNDERSTAND ALL MYSTERIES, AND ALL KNOWLEDGE ..."

"...AND THOUGH I HAVE ALL FAITH, SO THAT I COULD REMOVE MOUNTAINS ..."

"...AND HAVE NOT LOVE, I AM NOTHING."



HI EVERYONE! -^.^-

THE BOOK IN YOUR HANDS IS THE VERY FIRST WORK WE DID ENTIRELY FOR THE USA. IT'S ALSO THE LONGEST ONE WE'VE EVER DONE! IT TOOK US FIVE MONTHS, AND ENDED OUR LIVES TOO... HEH HEH. HOWEVER, IT WAS REALLY A CONSTRUCTIVE EXPERIENCE, AND WORKING UNDER SUCH RAPID DEADLINES MADE OUR ARTISTIC OUTPUT IMPROVE A LOT. NOW WE FEEL LIKE TANKS! :PP

'THE LILY AND THE ROSE' IS A STORY WE HAD IN MIND SINCE WE READ THE DE LACLOS' NOVEL 'LES LIASONS DANGEREUSES' MANY YEARS AGO. WE ALWAYS WISHED TO HAVE THE CHANCE TO DO A HISTORICAL COMIC. FIRST, BECAUSE WE LOVE HISTORY, AND SECOND, BECAUSE WE ADORE DRAWING COSTUMES. SO WE HAD A LOT OF FUN DOING THIS GRAPHIC NOVEL! WE CHECKED MANY FASHION PLATES OF THE LATE 18TH CENTURY AND WATCHED MOVIES, LOOKED AT PAINTINGS, ETC. IN ORDER TO BE AS ACCURATE AS POSSIBLE.

MORE THAN IN OUR FORMER COMICS, THIS STORY GAVE US THE CHANCE TO DO MANY DIFFERENT CHARACTER DESIGNS. CARDINAL DUCOS, IN PARTICULAR, IS THE MOST UNUSUAL. WE'RE VERY SATISFIED WITH THE RESULT (HE'S REALLY SLIMY...-_-"). AS FOR ALAIN AND CHRISTOPHE, AS THE MAIN CHARACTERS THEY ABSOLUTELY HAD TO EMBODY OUR IDEA OF BEAUTIFUL MEN. T_T;;; THAT'S WHY OUR CHARACTER DESIGNS ARE SIMILAR IN MANY OF OUR WORKS. IT'S LIKE WE HAVE TWO FAVORITE ACTORS WE LIKE TO HIRE ALL THE TIME.

LAST, BUT NOT LEAST, WE'RE PROUD OF BEING PART OF A PROJECT THAT PROMOTES WESTERN MANGA, AND WE'D LIKE TO THANK YAOI PRESS FOR THAT, AND ALL OF YOU FOR BUYING OUR GRAPHIC NOVEL!

DANY&DANY